Citizens Project

Here is the information you requested on CFV's proposed Resolution for Community Standards.

We have enclosed that resolution (on CFV's letterhead) in the form it was presented by CFV at their many recent Time To Stand seminars around the state. CFV has urged those who attended the seminars to get their local governments to enact this resolution.

In late July, after newspapers reported on the resolution, CFV revised it to reduce its overwhelming anti-homosexual slant. Their new version is reproduced on the back of the enclosure page. It incorporates the elements of their prior resolution, but leaves off much of the strident anti-gay language.

CFV's Kevin Tebedo announced that CFV will soon be presenting petitions to local government bodies in El Paso County, calling for them to enact this resolution and restrict their "direct or indirect funding" appropriately. This is likely to include county commissioners, our area city councils, and local school boards. Tebedo predicted CFV will start presenting the petitions by October.

CFV's proposed resolutions have significant problems, among them:

1. In contrast to CFV's earlier stated concern for equal rights under the law, CFV now wants official discrimination against gays and lesbians. This is described in the article that appeared in the last Citizens Project newsletter, which is reproduced on the back of this page.

2. Although America was built on the importance of individual rights and liberties, CFV hopes to pressure government leaders to start discriminating against gays and lesbians for activities which are completely legal. Kevin Tebedo said his resolution would create "a significant social barrier and stigmatization of homosexuality in the community."

3. Unlike CFV's campaign rhetoric for Amendment 2 (which condemned homosexual "orientation"), CFV's resolution is careful not to call for direct discrimination against homosexuals themselves. Rather, CFV's proposed resolution condemns homosexual "activities" and "behaviors." But what exactly does CFV want us to discriminate against? The article on the reverse of this page provides two illustrations of what CFV thinks.

You can help make our community a better place for all by standing up against CFV's new call for discrimination! ***(The Gazette Telegraph has requested citizen input to its Letters to the Editor section; you can voice your opinion by writing to Letters to the Editor, Box 1779, Colorado Springs, Co. 80901.)***

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CFV Targets Gays Again, No More "Equal Rights"

Colorado for Family Values has begun circulating petitions in El Paso County to have government officials adopt a resolution setting "community standards" against homosexuality, violence and pornography. CFV is undertaking similar actions in Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, and Archuleta counties. This resolution is intended primarily for city councils, county commissioners, and school boards.

CFV's proposed resolution deals almost entirely with homosexuality. Kevin Tebedo, president of Colorado for Family Values, explained that his resolution could stop homosexuals from using public facilities and could also be used to ban "pornographic" magazines such as Playboy and Penthouse.

"Equal rights" are out

The slogan "Equal rights, not special rights" was the cornerstone of CFV's successful Amendment 2 campaign. In CFV's new resolution, however, the rhetoric of equal rights for homosexuals is discarded.

CFV's resolution asks officials to declare that homosexuality is incompatible with "community standards." Then, according to the resolution, governmental bodies would agree not to spend tax money for any activities which "contravene these existing community standards."

According to Kevin Tebedo, that means gay groups could no longer rent or use space in public buildings. As Kevin said, "To use taxpayer dollars – our public auditoriums – to promote homosexuality might not be something the people of the town would want."

Kevin's example concerned a Colorado Springs group that rented the Palmer High auditorium one evening last summer to show films about gay life. The films discussed AIDS, understanding homosexuality, and reparative therapy (attempting to make homosexuals into heterosexuals).

Not everyone is taken with CFV's logic. One local official, after reading CFV's resolution, suggested that if gay groups were to be banned from all taxpayer-supported public facilities, perhaps gays should also be exempt from paying taxes. Another wanted to know if gays should be made to wear pink triangles, so that their activities could more easily be monitored and kept out of public buildings.

Amendment 2 was carefully crafted by CFV to prohibit gays from requesting any protection from discrimination. Perhaps not surprisingly, now CFV has started the push for increased discrimination against gays. Increasingly, gays and lesbians may be much in need of the very protections that CFV has worked so hard to deny them.

Libraries and schools

In explaining his new resolution, Kevin Tebedo used the example of the Grand Junction public library. In an exhibit sponsored by P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians), the library there displayed books explaining homosexuality. When CFV demanded that the library remove the books, the library refused.

That's wrong, said Tebedo: "We would not want our public funds going to pay for a homosexual art display in our library." Other than books on homosexuality, Kevin was not specific about which books libraries might be forced to discard (or not purchase) under his resolution.

CFV also plans to push this new resolution onto school boards. If it is adopted, CFV would demand that schools either not discuss homosexuality or condemn it, because in CFV's thinking "talking about homosexuality legitimizes it."

The world according to CFV

CFV has a queer view of our community and of the world. In April, they charged that gays were behind the Nazi regime in Germany. Recently, they attacked the Manitou Springs City Council for including the word "rainbow" in a city planning document. CFV considered this to be evidence that "militant gay activists" were influencing the city.

Now, at a time when people want less intrusive government, CFV is pressuring governments to spearhead discrimination against our fellow gay and lesbian citizens. As Richard Skorman, board chair of Citizens Project said, "This is a vicious personal attack by CFV on law-abiding, tax-paying members of our community." CP

This is a reprint of an article that appeared in the August Freedom Watch, *the monthly newsletter of Citizens Project. If not already a subscriber, you can receive* Freedom Watch *for $15 per year. Simply call Citizens Project at 520-9899.*

1st
DRAFT

This is the resolution that CFV has been promoting at its recent series of Time To Stand seminars around our state.

Resolution for Community Standards

WHEREAS, the {governing body name} is legally charged with protection of the safety, health, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, there are increasing assaults on those community standards which jeopardize the protection of the public's safety, health, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the {governing body name} believes it must not sit silently and watch those community standards be undermined; and

WHEREAS, homosexuality has been a recent focus of policy decisions from the federal to state and local levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the {governing body name} desires to support and defend the standards of the community as articulated by the outspoken voice of the majority whom it serves, as those standards relate to homosexuality, pornography, violence and preservation of the family; and

WHEREAS, the {governing body name} makes the following findings of fact:

That the heterosexual family structure is in accord with over-arching standards of the community; and

That this structure has been historically and biologically proven to be the primary and best method for fostering a positive child-rearing environment, establishing an orderly society, and providing for the health and welfare of future generations; and

That the behavior advocated by homosexuality should not be endorsed by government policy makers, because it is incompatible with the standards to which this community subscribes; and

That the impact of pornography, all types, has a detrimental effect on the community as a whole, and is repugnant to community standards; and

That the behavior of homosexuality has been proven to be damaging to those who engage in it and destructive to the society that affirms and legitimizes it; and

That the political lobby promulgating homosexuality has as their agenda nothing less than the complete and total societal affirmation and legitimacy of homosexual behavior in the community;

(Please turn over)

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;

1. {governing body name} openly and vigorously supports the current community standards and will not enact policies, ordinances or laws that are repugnant to the community standards; and

2. {governing body name} pledges not to fund, directly or indirectly, activities which seek to contravene these existing community standards or give affirmation and legitimacy to homosexual behavior; and

3. {governing body name} calls upon all community leaders, elected officials and policy makers to support and defend these standards; and

4. {governing body name} believes that this resolution will serve and protect the health, safety, and welfare of its constituents; and

5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that {governing body name} supports and will defend the constitutional and civil rights of all of its citizens, but recognizes the behavior of homosexuality to be neither a constitutional nor a civil right.

This is Colorado for Family Values' second draft of their Resolution for Community Standards, as it appeared on the editorial page in the July 26 *Gazette Telegraph*.

Whereas, the (governing body name) is legally charged with protection of the safety, health, and welfare of the community; and

Whereas, there are increasing assaults on those community standards which jeopardize the protection of the public's safety, health, and welfare; and

Whereas, the (governing body name) believes it must not sit silently and watch those community standards be undermined; and

Whereas, homosexuality has been a recent focus of policy decisions from the federal to state and local levels of government; and

Whereas, the (governing body name) desires to support and defend the standards of the community as articulated by the outspoken voice of the majority whom it serves, as those standards relate to homosexuality, pornography, violence and preservation of the nuclear family; and

Whereas, the (governing body name) makes the following statements of standards:

Homosexuality: Homosexuality is not morally, ethically, or legally equal to heterosexuality. It is understood that all citizens of America have equal rights by virtue of their American citizenship; the rights and privileges accorded citizenship do not extend to the behavior of homosexuality. In short, homosexuality is not an identity. Our community must put its full force behind heterosexuality only, and the institutions and policies it gives rise to.

Pornography: The community recognizes pornography (to include but not limited to definitions by federal and state laws) to have no social or artistic value whatsoever for our community. Any economic value is immediately offset by the destruction of the family, the degradation of women and children, and the addictions of men that are the by-products of pornography.

Violence: The community understands that the primary force behind violence in our community is the disintegration of the nuclear family. The majority of violent crimes are perpetrated by youth between the ages of 18 and 25. The high representation of blacks and Hispanics in our jails and detention centers is a direct result of children growing up without fathers in the home and a generally less active, positive family unit in those communities. These facts have led to an environment where young minorities are perceived to be more dangerous and may lead to unfair and even outright racist treatment.

Preservation of the family: It is the standard of this community to put its influence and resources behind the preservation of the nuclear family as defined as a male and a female morally and legally united as husband and wife, and to preserve the sanctity of this union to the best of the community's ability. The community is not ignorant nor complacent to the facts of life that impact a family. However, even in divorce, death and single parenthood the community recognizes the essential components of male and female as the only elements comprising a family.

Now therefore be it resolved:

1) (Governing body name) openly and vigorously supports the current community standards and will not enact policies, ordinances or laws that are repugnant to the community standards; and

2) (Governing body name) pledges not to fund, directly or indirectly, activities which seek to contravene these existing community standards or give affirmation and legitimacy to homosexual behavior, and

3) (Governing body name) calls upon all community leaders, elected officials and policy makers to support and defend these standards; and

4) (Governing body name) believes that this resolution will serve and protect the health, safety and welfare of its constituents; and

5) Be it further resolved, that (governing body name) supports and will defend the constitutional and civil rights of all of its citizens, but recognizes much of human behavior to be neither a constitutional nor a civil right.

3RD DRAFT

Petition for a Community Standards Resolution

REAS, the undersigned acknowledges that the County Commissioners and City Council are officially charged with protection of the safety, health, and welfare of people in the jurisdiction over which they preside; and

REAS, the moral and social safety, health, and welfare of the community are not inherent, but must be planned for and well thought out, as are all other types of community planning; and

REAS, the undersigned believes, that when planning for the moral and social future of the community, elected representatives should advance the standards of this document; and

EREAS, the undersigned desires that our elected representatives support the standards of the community as articulated below, as those standards relate to pornography, violence, homosexuality, and preservation of the nuclear family; and

EREAS, the undersigned acknowledges and affirms the following statements of standards:

Pornography: The community recognizes pornography (to include but not limited to definitions by federal and state laws) to have no social or artistic value whatsoever for our community. Any economic value is immediately offset by the destruction of the family, the degradation of women and children, and the addictions of men—the inevitable by-products of pornography.

Violence: The community understands that the primary cause behind violence in our community is the disintegration of the nuclear family. It is common knowledge that the majority of violent crimes are perpetrated by people who grew up or are growing up in broken homes. Keeping the nuclear family intact as a future deterrent on violent crime is a priority for our community.

Homosexuality: The community does not affirm homosexuality to be a moral, ethical, or legal equal to heterosexuality. It is understood that all citizens of America have equal rights by virtue of their American citizenship; the rights and privileges accorded citizenship do not extend to the *behavior* of homosexuality. Our community must unconditionally advocate heterosexuality only, through our institutions and policies.

Preservation of the family: It should be obvious that "love" is not the only thing that defines a family, but rather love as it is exhibited within the historical and reasonable pattern of the nuclear family. It is the standard of this community to put its influence and resources behind the preservation of the nuclear family, defined as a male and a female, morally and legally united as husband and wife; extending to any children of the union and relations. The community is not insensitive nor complacent to the realities of the modern family: divorce, death of a spouse, single parent families. Nevertheless, the community recognizes the nuclear family as the most favorable circumstance under which children are to be conceived and reared, and desires to preserve the sanctity of this union to the best of our community's ability.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;

1. The undersigned wishes for elected representatives to openly and vigorously support the above community standards and not enact policies, create ordinances/laws, or spend appropriated dollars in a manner which is repugnant to these community standards; and

2. The undersigned requests that elected officials not fund activities which seek to contravene these community standards; and

3. The undersigned calls upon all community leaders, elected officials and policy makers to support these standards; and

4. The undersigned believes that while this resolution is not legally binding in any fashion, it effectively serves as guiding principles in planning for the moral and social future of the community, and that it will aid in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the undersigned supports the constitutional and civil rights of all citizens, but also recognizes that constitutional and civil rights are not self-defined. The undersigned requests that these standards be used in the decision-making process in formulating public policy.

(Petition Carrier: Please fill in below; do not detach)

Name:_____ Age:_____ Ethnicity:_____

Address:_____ Male/female:_____

City:_____ Zip:_____

I adopt the community standards resolution stated above as a representation of my standards. I respectfully request that the City Council/County Commissioners use these standards as guiding principles when making policy and planning the future of Colorado Springs and El Paso County.

Signed:_____ Date:_____

Colorado for Family Values ✪ P.O. Box 190 ✪ Colorado Springs, CO 80901